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***NEWS From:***

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**Congressman Mike Honda**

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FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA

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For Immediate Release  
May 1, 2003

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## **Science Committee Approves Boehlert-Honda Nanotechnology Legislation**

WASHINGTON, May 1, 2003 — Today, the House Science Committee today approved legislation by voice vote that would authorize a national nanotechnology research initiative. Nanotechnology, the manipulation of individual atoms, is a priority in the Administration's fiscal 2004 proposed budget. The National Science Foundation (NSF) conservatively predicts a \$1 trillion global market for nanotechnology in little over a decade.

"I commend my colleagues on the Science Committee for passing the Boehlert-Honda nanotechnology legislation to the House Floor. This legislation will not only fund critical research and development in the public sector, but will also help accelerate commercial applications of nanotechnology innovations in the private sector," said **Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose)**.

"This bill, over time, will bolster our economy as well as add to our storehouse of knowledge. Leadership has tentatively scheduled floor action for next week - appropriately a week devoted to bills related to job creation... We are entering an era that will give new meaning to the '60s slogan 'small is beautiful,'" said **Chairman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY)**.

H.R. 766, the Nanotechnology Research and Development Act of 2002, authorizes \$2.36 billion over three years for nanotechnology research and development programs at NSF, the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Commerce, NASA, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The bill provides a formal structure for coordination of research across the agencies, emphasizes interdisciplinary research, addresses societal concerns raised by nanotechnology,

and requires outside reviews of the program.

The Committee accepted a Manager's amendment to H.R. 766, introduced by Boehlert, which increased the funding levels for DOE to make it consistent with the recently House-passed energy bill, H.R. 6. In addition, the Boehlert amendment included an agreement reached with the Administration regarding a Presidential Advisory Committee.

The Committee also accepted an amendment by Rep. Honda that would require the development of a plan to utilize Federal programs, such as the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer Research Program (STTR), in support of the goals of accelerating the commercial application of nanotechnology innovations in the private sector.

Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and George Allen (R-VA), sponsors of a companion bill in the Senate, testified before the Science Committee in March and noted that Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) has put their legislation on the "fast track."

The text of the bill and a section-by-section can be found at the Science Committee website at [www.house.gov/science](http://www.house.gov/science). For additional information on the federal government's nanotechnology research initiatives, log on to [www.nano.gov](http://www.nano.gov).